

FRIENDS OF THE MCKAY MEMORIAL GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

November

2009

Memberships Due

The Friends manage to do quite a bit of work on the smell of an oily rag but some things require cash. We need funds to maintain our status as an incorporated body, essential when applying for grants, for postage and other small expenses. In addition we would like to join the Historical Gardens Association. All of this requires funds. Please help us out by renewing your financial membership or by becoming a financial member if you are not already a member. We offer the most modest fees in town.

Fees:

Adult (12 months) \$5:00

Concession (12 months) \$4:00

Children free.

Fees can be paid at any Friends meeting
or
by postal order to Friends of the McKay
Gardens PO Box 1021 Robinson VIC
3019

Finally, irrigation.

After long years of dry and the loss of many trees, the McKay Gardens finally have a new irrigation system. Council has installed an under-surface, drip irrigation system that will mean that the little water we have allocated under the Heritage exemption will go where it is most needed – on garden beds and trees. All the trees and garden beds are now irrigated and we hope that there will be no more losses from water

stress. Even with the new system, leaks can occur. If you spot water leaking in the Gardens please report it to the council.



Council installing new irrigation

New Trees.

A part of this year's tree planting cycle we have acquired 19 new trees in addition to those planted as part of the second stage of the restoration work. These are to replace the trees that have been lost in recent years but also to begin the phased replacement of trees reaching now their old age. More trees are to come. This year's planting includes (among others) four English oaks (*Quercus robur*) and four magnolia (*grandiflora*) planted along the 'straight six'. Over time this will form an avenue providing shade along the entire length of the path.

The replacement of trees is vitally important not only for the appearance of the gardens but also to replace tree canopy and thereby reduce moisture evaporation. One of the distressing things about our loss of trees during this drought is that

tree loss increases moisture evaporation and thus soil drying and further tree loss.



New Magnolia trees

In the News.

The Age's Denis Gadd's gardening blog, *Pottering By* will feature a story on the McKay Gardens this Saturday, 7th November. For those interested the story can be found at: <http://blogs.theage.com.au/lifestyle/potteringby/>

Volunteers Needed

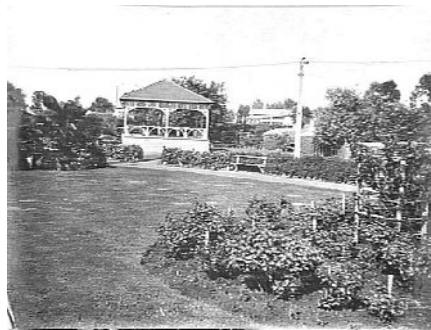
The Friends need volunteers to help out on the day of the centenary celebrations. Specifically, we need people who would be prepared to ensure the gardens are clean before the event – pick up rubbish, watch the marquee and chairs before the event to ensure no one walks off with anything and help clean up afterwards. If you can help for half

an hour please contact me at:
contact@mckaygardens.org
or ring 9364 7443.

Music in the Gardens

Celebrating 100 years of the McKay Memorial Gardens

Sunday November 29th 2009
from 12.30



Free afternoon tea
Free music by local bands: The
Sunshine Brass Band, The
Sunshine Pipe Band and local
legends The Legless Lizards.

Bring a picnic, bring a blanket,
bring the kids. Enjoy a walk
through the gardens and
reclaim Sunshine's heritage

Car parking near the Gardens is
limited but there will be parking in
the adjacent soccer ground and
there is plenty of parking in the
Sunshine plaza car park on the
opposite side of the rail line. Take a
walk across the foot bridge.